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C.A. Vice Presidents Meet In Honduras

PA121932 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2312 GMT 11 Sep 87

[Press conference by Costa Rican Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo, Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, Honduran Presidential Designate Alfredo Fortin, Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicole, and Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado with local and foreign reporters; moderated by Presidential Spokesman Marco Tulio Romero; held in the Blue Room of the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] [Romero] We will now begin this important news conference following the Central American vice presidents' meeting. Presidential Designate Alfredo Fortin Inestroza will report the results achieved by this vice presidential meeting, which we were proud to host in our capital, Tegucigalpa.

[Fortin] I would like to thank the journalists for their patience while waiting for the conclusion of our lengthy discussions throughout this day. However, the five representatives of the fraternal Central American countries are satisfied to report the achievement of a consensus on the creation of a Central American parliament. It is really marvelous to see how a dialogue can make so many things possible. Today's event is the result of many meetings where certain points had to be clarified. This was achieved given the faith we all have in Central America and the confidence that if we talk it will be possible to clarify certain issues that are still unclear. This is praiseworthy because Central America needs everyone's efforts, everyone's intellectual capacity, and everyone's faith that if we achieve peace we will have progress and a better future for our children.

Consequently, we have concluded a day's work, and we are now able to report to the local and international news media that we have reached an agreement. We have clarified the points that were still somewhat unclear, and this was achieved without problems. Another meeting will be held in Guatemala City in a relatively short time, but the date is still not definite. We will then conclude the analysis of this project for a parliament, and then it will be passed on to the various sectors involved until we reach the final moment of its approval by our respective national assemblies. Therefore, this has been an explanation of our day's work. You may now ask whatever questions you consider necessary. We cordially ask you to limit your questions to the meeting held today in Tegucigalpa. So, you may now ask your questions.

[Romero] Please use this microphone to identify yourselves and the media you represent. Also, please address your first questions to Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, because he must leave for his country in a few minutes. To reiterate, please identify yourselves and the media you represent. The first question will be asked by German Reyes, ACAN-EFE'S correspondent in Honduras.

[Reyes] First of all, Vice President Ramirez, please tell us what you discussed with President Jose Azcona Hoyo. Second, what is your government's position concerning certain Central American countries' announcement that they support the U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras? Also, what is your government's position concerning Nicaragua's... [corrects himself] excuse me, Costa Rica's announcement yesterday that it does not want Sandinists in Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] First of all, I can tell you I held an open and cordial talk with President Azcona. I had the opportunity to report the progress achieved by Nicaragua concerning the Esquipulas agreement's implementation. I also told him a National Reconciliation Commission has been established and is operating under Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's presidency. These are the first actions carried out by the Nicaraguan Government concerning the Esquipulas document, and other actions will be carried out in the near future—until 5 November.

Likewise, President Azcona reasserted the Honduran Government's willingness to strictly comply with the Esquipulas peace agreement's points that refer to Honduras and to implement the point that refers to—above all—the counterrevolutionary forces' presence in Honduran territory. We believe all the Central American countries are willing to comply with the Esquipulas agreement's provisions. I do not share the journalist's opinion that certain Central American governments agree that the U.S. Senate should renew its financial aid to the counterrevolutionary forces. I did not discern this during my talks with President Azcona today, and it has not been implied by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' statements, because he has firmly rejected the U.S. Government's support to the counterrevolutionary forces. We think this is an appropriate moment to reach peace because we have participated in a constructive dialogue, as Honduran Presidential Designate Alfredo Fortin put it. We must now look toward the future with optimism and believe that peace can be achieved. Nicaragua will exert itself to the utmost so the peace efforts will be fruitful. The five Central American presidents signed the peace document, and we take every Central American president at his word. President Azcona's assurance that Honduras will fulfill its pledges is enough for Nicaragua.

[Romero] The next question is asked by Dolores Valenzuela of Televisora Hondurena.

[Valenzuela] [Words indistinct] your country that it is willing to comply with the peace plan. I want to ask you if this is really true, because several U.S. senators and members of the Nicaraguan resistance came to our country and said your country has no intention of fulfilling its pledges. Likewise, certain news media have not been reopened, certain political prisoners have not been released, and there are other problems in Nicaragua.

[Ramirez] I think that the most important thing here is to let actions speak for themselves. I can tell you we will

fulfill our pledges, but you believe more those you call the resistance, whom I call terrorists. You believe them more than you believe me, and I cannot prevent that. You also believe more the extreme right-wing senators who arrogantly came to issue threats in Central America and try to mock the Central American countries' integrity and sovereignty. Like I said, this could result in a useless argument. Nicaragua will fulfill its pledges; we will fulfill them on the dates specified in the agreement or prior to those dates. I would like to answer your questions when the deadlines have expired and you have a different opinion of what will happen. Those arguments can only be countered with facts, and we will speak with facts.

[Romero] Julio Armando Valdes of Radio America will ask the next question.

[Valdes] Mr Vice President, I have two questions: What have you done to offer a complete amnesty in Nicaragua? Referring to the 22 points mentioned by Dr Fortin, do you share his views about the 22 points for creating a Central American parliament?

[Ramirez] Well, we are committed to implementing an amnesty program, as are the other Central American countries with political prisoners. And so, we are going to implement the amnesty program before 5 November and on the dates established in the Esquipulas II agreement. In Nicaragua, we face the problem of having to persuade a people who have been affected by a 6-year war and who have been the victims of savage murders and torture by terrorists, of mine explosions along highways, and of indiscriminate attacks on cooperatives that we have to release prisoners to achieve peace. We are undoubtedly going to do that. Likewise, the matter of whether or not amnesty should be given to people arrested before the revolution's victory in 1979 is being discussed in Nicaragua. This has to be discussed in a calm manner, too.

The Nicarguan Government is committed to implementing a peace process. When we talk about amnesty, we must keep in mind that amnesty not only includes people in jails for various crimes but also those who have risen up in arms and have joined the counterrevolutionary ranks. These people have all possible and necessary guarantees to resume a peaceful life in Nicaragua.

A National Reconciliation Commission has been set up in Nicaragua. It is headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. In addition, peace commissions have been set up in the country's interior. For example, the Chinotega peace commission is headed by Bishop [name indistinct]. Farmers, Protestant pastors, deacons, church representatives, teachers, and leaders of diverse communities are participating in these commissions.

These commissions are in contact with the relatives of rebels and the rebels themselves. As a result of this peace effort in Nicaragua, over 300 rebels have laid down their weapons and accepted amnesty. We are inviting all Nicaraguans of good will who are armed to lay down their weapons, accept the amnesty program with all its guarantees, return to Nicaragua, and join a normal life. The Nicaraguan Government, society, and their communities are prepared to offer them all guarantees possible.

That is the Nicaraguan Government's commitment. We are prepared to implement the amnesty so that the cease-fire, which the Nicaraguan Government will truly abide by, will be truly effective and become a true instrument of peace.

As for the other question, I would say, as Dr Fortin has said, that the Nicaraguan Government has supported all the agreements reached at today's meeting. I can say, as Dr Fortin himself stated, that we had a very frank and cordial dialogue. It has not been difficult to agree on the resolution. We have a draft treaty to create the Central American parliament that contains its objectives, organization, and electoral regulations. We agreed that each country must select 20 representatives for the Central American parliament. We agreed that deputies to the Central American parliament must be elected in direct, secret, and democratic elections so that true pluralism will exist in each delegation. We have agreed to recommend to the Central American presidents that Guatemala be the headquarters for this parliament in honor of that country's role as initiator and originator of the idea for a Central American parliament.

As Dr Fortin noted, there are only two steps left. The first is to present the draft treaty to the preparation committee, which is made up of the Central American vice presidents and foreign ministers as well as by five deputies from each Central American parliament. Once this committee reviews the draft treaty, it will be submitted to the Central American presidents during the presidential summit that will be held early next year or at the end of this year. And finally, it will be submitted for ratification to the assemblies or parliaments of each Central American country.

[Station announcer] [Words indistinct] national network. The press conference continues. [name indistinct] of *La Tribuna*.

[Reporter, in progress]...Ramirez. How does he feel that U.S. congressmen [words indistinct] approving $210 million to help the counterrevolution and what will the parliament's duties be? Will it be a panacea to achieve peace?

[Ramirez] The Central American parliament is of utmost importance to determine long-term political, economic, and social cooperation guidelines for the Central American countries. Once peace is achieved, these guidelines will leave behind the specter of war in Central America. The problem of lasting peace in Central America must be solved based on political and economic cooperation with permanent understanding.

Therefore, we cannot let this effort fail. We must pursue this matter. For us Nicaraguans, the Central American parliament is a permanent tool. It is a place where we can

gather to discuss, in a pluralist manner, the political differences we may have and reach agreements that benefit Central America.

As for the other question you posed regarding those U.S. congressmen who are requesting financial aid to the counterrevolution, my answer is as follows: We want to believe that they are an extremist minority that does not want peace in Central America. More specifically, my answer would be: I feel that no U.S. congressman has the authority to pretend to know more about what is best for Central American than the presidents of these countries.

We must forsake this era of paternalism, where we are forced to accept what others decide for us. The five Central American presidents, representing sovereign and independent peoples, have signed a document that will help determine Central America's future. Therefore, it is a disgrace that an outsider, from the United States or any other country, should tell us otherwise. We should not tolerate that. The Central American presidents decided what we have to do.

[Announcer] This is Radio America's national network from the Presidential House. The Univision correspondent is now speaking. This was the last question for Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado who has to return to his country now, as is being announced. He is bidding farewell to his Central American colleagues. Ramirez Mercado is now leaving the Presidential House since his return flight to Nicaragua is scheduled to leave at 1530. The four vice presidents of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador are remaining. [Name indistinct] of Univision asks the following question. This is Radio America's national network.

[Reporter] The following question is for Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, honorable vice president of El Salvador. Within the agreement that was reached, there is mention of direct elections to select representatives from each country to the Central American parliament. Would you allow, I mean the Salvadoran authorities, the FMLN and FDR to participate in future elections? And this is a second question: Will talks be held next week in San Jose between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN-FDR?

[Castillo] Thank you. The Salvadoran Government's position regarding the FMLN-FDR has always been to invite them to join the democratic process that the country is experiencing. We believe that there is no justification whatsoever for armed actions in El Salvador because there is a democratic and open process that offers the necessary guarantees to politically participate, organize, and operate in El Salvador.

Moreover, there is no doubt that the Esquipulas II document that was signed by the five Central American presidents totally disallows and rejects armed actions to attain power in any Central American government. Therefore, in El Salvador, President Duarte has said: Members of the FMLN and FDR, recognize and join in the spirit and letter of the Esquipulas II peace agreement. We will immediately begin a dialogue to establish the necessary points of agreement and the methods for these people to surrender their weapons and be reincorporated into Salvadoran civil society and political activities that they may want to participate. This will allow them to get organized in political parties; either the Communist Party or any other that that they may wish to organize so that that they may participate not only in the Central American parliament elections but also in the national elections to select deputies, councilmen, mayors, and, of course, the president of the Republic.

This is the Salvadoran Government's official position. This is what President Duarte said in his speech to the Legislative Assembly on 13 August, when he presented a report on what was achieved at Esquipulas. The terrorist Salvadoran guerrillas have replied to this proposal by saying that they accept the dialogue. However, they do not comment on the Esquipulas II peace document. To recognize and accept the spirit and the letter of the document signed by the five Central American presidents is an essential condition; and this is very logical in order to truly begin a dialogue for peace and a halt in violence. The document itself states it. The five Central American presidents are demanding it. There is no other way around it.

Despite what the document says, President Duarte has tried to move ahead and provide this opportunity. Costa Rican President Oscar Arias agrees with this effort. Recently, a meeting [between Salvadoran guerrillas and President Arias] took place in San Jose, Costa Rica, with President Duarte's approval. Unfortunately, the Salvadoran guerrillas always insist on a dialogue for war instead of a dialogue for peace. The Esquipulas II document's basic ideology states this. In fact, President Oscar Arias wrote that part personally. It mentions that what should be done is to conduct a dialogue for peace and to erradicate war. This is what the Salvadoran people and government want.

This answers why at present, under the terms outlined by the guerrillas, there cannot be a dialogue. We cannot sit down to discuss how to continue waging war because we need to sit down and discuss what we should do to achieve peace. That is our proposal. The FMLN-FDR must reply to that proposal. El Salvador has not only reiterated that proposal over the recent years, but it has responsibly and in good faith signed the Esquipulas II agreement and will abide by it.

[Announcer] Radio America's national network listeners *Latin-Reuter* correspondent Gould will ask the next question.

[Gould] I would like to know your position regarding the statement by Mr Shultz, about asking for $200 million aid for the contras.

[Castillo] We recently learned that this proposal has been withdrawn from the U.S. Congress. This is our comment, and is the only thing we know about this at this time.

[Announcer] The vice presidents have been asked if they wish to comment further on the last question. Our colleague Roy Arthur will ask the next question.

[Arthur] Dr Fortin said that an agreement has been reached on the Central American parliament. How long will it be before this becomes a reality?

[Announcer] Dr Fortin will answer this question.

[Fortin] According to the agreement signed by the presidents in Esquipulas, excuse me, in Guatemala, we will have to continue working on the final details. Moreover, as I mentioned at the beginning of this press conference, we have tentatively scheduled a meeting to be held in Guatemala, possibly during the first week of October.

Obviously, this has to be sent to the political commission that, as was already explained by [Guatemalan] Vice President Carpio, is composed of the vice presidents, the foreign ministers, and five congressmen from each country. The treaty signed in Guatemala states that the representatives from the five Central American countries to the Central American parliament should be elected during the first half of 1988. We believe that we will be able to meet this commitment.

[Announcer] Teodoro Diaz, from *El Tiempo* asks the next question of the Central American vice presidents.

[Diaz] Mr Salvadoran Vice President: I would like to know when the Salvadoran Government will repatriate its refugees, the compatriots who are in Honduras? Supposedly, there is a democratic government in El Salvador.

[Castillo] Yes, I will be pleased to respond to your question. As you are aware, there is a tripartite commission already operating, which recently held a number of meetings. Moreover, today, or yesterday, I do not recall, the commission held a meeting with the Salvadoran deputy minister for social development and some other officials, including some from Honduras, to review matters pertaining to the refugee camps. This tripartite commission, in which the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, is also participating, is developing the repatriation plan. There is also something that must be considered that no government has control over: a willingness [to be repatriated] which is not a factor established by El Salvador, rather it has been established by the United Nations. Thus, willingness is part of this discussion.

El Salvador on its part has all the necessary infrastructure and political willingness. What we are doing at this time is searching for points of agreement and reaching agreements concerning the ways to carry out this repatriation. These are human beings. Thus, it is not a matter of putting people inside a truck and dumping them at the border. Rather, it is a voluntary transfer of human beings. The Honduran and Salvadoran Governments are making some progress under the supervision and cooperation of the UNHCR.

[Announcer] The foreign correspondents have been asked if they wish to ask any more questions. Marco Tulio Romero is asking the foreign correspondents if they have any more questions. However, it seems that the statement made by the Honduran vice president, or the presidential designate from Honduras, on the matters discussed today at the Government House was very complete.

[Romero] Faustino Ordonez Vaca from *LA PRENSA*.

[Ordonez] Mr Guatemalan Vice President. Your government created this initiative. The Vice president from the sister nation of Costa Rica has played a very important role in the Central America peace effort, and President Arias has been one of the main factors and the main promoter of signing the peace agreement in Guatemala City.

This is a question for the Guatemalan Vice President. Will this Central American parliament be permanent or temporary?

I would like to ask the Honduran vice president: What would be the approximate cost to elect the Honduran Government representatives to this parliament?

[Carpio] I will respond to your question, which I think is a very good question, because the idea of creating the Central American parliament does not arise from any stage in our history. From the beginning, we have recognized that Central American nations have a common destiny and that that common destiny should be carried out with a political action [word indistinct].

Therefore, the Central American parliament is a stable and permanent structure [word indistinct] corresponding to the five Central American countries. This will mean that the Central American parliament, as an institution, will allow the five Central American nations to coordinate their actions and face the future as great nations, like we were, and still are. This is an attitude that is beyond our present circumstances. We will reach a point where the Central American parliament will bring together the ideas that will help strengthen our common destiny. If matters are dealt with in this way, we shall face the future as five members of one nation. The Central American parliament, in all its concepts and parts, is an innovation as a type of parliament.

It is not like the European parliament, [words indistinct] or the Latin American parliament. It is our parliament. It will serve as a forum and through this parliament we will maintain a continuous dialogue, and present our ideas or anything else that needs to be discussed. At the same time, the parliament will serve as the foundation

for building a house, a Central American house that will allow us to continue to build our Central America. Thus, we not only emphasize the Central American parliament as a parliamentary structure, but also the links it may have to other political events that will permit us to build new political branches in Central America. This way, we continue marching in these modern times, so that amidst this present crisis we may ease the effort of those who are building Central America—who have had to devote years of effort. Finally, I want to tell the correspondent that, regarding your question, this parliament would be a permanent Central American structure that will allow us to attain a better integration to the [words indistinct].

[Announcer] Reporter David Romero from Radio America has another question for the vice presidents.

[Romero] Mr Vice Presidents, could the creation of a Central American parliament result in a forum to allow only Central Americans to discuss Central American problems, without the meddling of superpowers interested in boycotting regional peace efforts, specifically the United States, which has sent permanent delegates to try to prevent the compliance of the peace agreements signed in Guatemala?

[Carpio] Well, going back to the Central American vice presidents idea, the truth is that this is a Central American parliament for Central America. We Central Americans will make the decisions, others may have their own decisions, approaches, and political structures. These will be our own decisions. We recognize the sovereingty of any state, and we ask others to respect our sovereignty. We will decide our own destiny by ourselves. Our relations with other countries in the world shall be on equal terms, with sovereign respect for our decisions.

Today, we approved guidelines to normalize relations with other countries. We will not take sides with anyone; we will defend our right to make our own decisions because that is our sovereign right. Consequently, our destiny is in our own hands and we will build Central America with our own efforts.

[Name indistinct] We have an interesting question [words indistinct] several persons: Can Central America act on its own and seek its destiny without having to depend on other countries?

[Dengo] I think that the question should not be asked if we are truly Central Americans, if we have to [words indistinct], and if we are aware of our history and struggle to establish democratic processes in Central America. We should believe that Central American has all the necessary conditions to act on its own. The problem is that Central America has been afflicted—like many other small countries in the world—by an overwhelming economic crisis in the eighties. This crisis affected the entire world and caused social, political, and economic crises and led to confusion in many countries' development plans.

Within this context, larger and stronger countries have tried to help Central America based on their own concepts of how this aid should be given. The problem is that Central Americans must define their own strategy and goals, and talk clearly with larger countries. I will mention a specific example: Costa Rica's experience with the United States has been marked by the dignity that has prevailed in these two countries relations. Costa Rica is a small country that has faced grave economic problems, and has an ideological-democratic process that differs from that of the United States. However, this has not been an obstacle to dignified agreements so that the large country may provide aid for the small country.

Nevertheless, the aid has differed considerably when other U.S. policies [words indistinct] specifically our neutrality concerning armed conflicts, and not our ideology. We have a democratic ideology and we believe that democracy is the way to solve our countries' underdevelopment problems, attain necessary intellectual and human independence, and abolish unnecessary inferiority complexes. We believe in this and Costa Rica has proven it. We are not ashamed of our friendship with the United States and it has been a friendship between countries. We have not allowed the United States to impose its opinion about our development plans. The five Central American countries have attained this as a whole. This is a joint action, a cooperation effort, a great awareness of our own problems and the different opinions among our countries. Above all, we have realized that—following 10 years of conflicts, violence, and fights—armed violence will not solve our societies' problems.

We know that dialogue and peace will allow the Central American countries to retake the road toward progress and the consolidation of our future welfare. The Central American parliament plays a fundamental role for Central America to achieve this. Perhaps we did not seek this because one seldom knows when one is involved in a historical event. This will be understood by future generations when they learn of our current efforts. All those attending this event are witnessing the beginning of a new and great era for Central America: The era of democracy, peace, and liberty in Central America.

D. Ortega Holds San Jacinto News Conference

PA132338 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1652 GMT 13 Sep 87

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega after San Jacinto battle anniversary ceremony at San Jacinto farm with unidentified reporters—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...well, this is President Reagan's dialogue. [announcer explains that Ortega is looking at a Redeye missile] This is how Reagan holds a dialogue. This is the way that Reagan supports the dialogue. We must emphasize that Reagan should be convinced that the more arms he gives to the mercenaries, the more arms our Army will have. This is a U.S. Army weapon that now belongs to the EPS. Therefore, President Reagan should know that this weapon is not helping his mercenaries but the EPS.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] It was the Simon Bolivar Battalion.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] pope said in his visit to the United States regarding the Central American war?

[Ortega] Well, I think the pope can contribute to peace in Central America to the extent that he advises all the Christians in the United States, the U.S. Christian people and President Reagan—who says he is a Christian—to really work for peace.

[Reporter] When will Radio Catolica and *La Prensa* be reopened? When will [words indistinc]?

[Ortega] All of this will come in due time and essentially depends, as we have said, on the aggression our country is experiencing. The aggression that our country is suffering is what has forced us to take a number of measures.

[Reporter] All Central Americans, including Panamanians, who have been participating in counterrevolutionary actions will be pardoned. What will be the legal mechanism for this?

[Ortega] That is right, all of them will be pardoned. I have the decree ready to be sent to the National Assembly. (?that will be) the legal mechanism.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] No, they are not covered by this.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] They would have to be sent to the United States. I do not know if the United States would accept those gentlemen.

[Reporter] Is there a difference between pardon and amnesty? Why is there a differentiation?

[Ortega] Amnesty is general while a pardon is more specific. We have an amnesty for all those who want to accept it and who are right now directly or indirectly involved in counterrevolutionary activities. A number of mercenaries have already accepted this amnesty.

[Reporter] Will you hold a dialogue with the contras?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] They are about a dozen.

Cardinal Obando Returns With Exiled Priests

PA140230 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0256 GMT 13 Sep 87

[Report by (Cefiro Santana)]

[Text] A few minutes ago, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the Episcopal Conference and the National Commission for Reconciliation, returned to Managua from Miami, where he participated in a mass officiated by Pope John Paul II. The cardinal accompanied Msgr Bismarck Carballo and Father Benito Pitito, who have been barred from returning to Nicaragua because of their position, which supported the U.S. Government's policy of aggression against Nicaragua.

Several rightist political personalities and a group of Catholics, from especially well-to-do families, were conspicuously present to welcome Cardinal Obando and the two priests. Msgr Carballo was interviewed by newsmen at Sandino airport. Here are his statements:

[Begin Carballo recording] I come with a spirit of reconciliation and in communion with my bishops to work in this church, to try to live as a priest in this country, and to work with the Catholic community. [end recording]

Humberto Ortega Interview

PA120518 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Sep 87 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra by unidentified *Barricada* correspondent on the occasion of Army Day—date and place not given]

[Text] [*Barricada*] General Ortega, when an MI-17 Sandinist Army helicopter was shot down recently by the contras, the government maintained that with this action the United States violated the Esquipulas II agreements. However, the EPS itself has developed a large-scale military offensive against the mercenaries, and yet it does not feel that it is violating the agreements. How do you explain this?

[Ortega] As long as the agreements are not completed and the negotiation process continues, as long as Reagan maintains his will to destroy the revolution and to boycott the agreements, the defeat of the mercenary aggression and the acceleration of the strategic defeat of Reagan's traitors operating out of Honduras continue to be priority tasks.

The revolution should not only give priority to the efforts to defend the fatherland by attacking the mercenaries, but should now accelerate and strengthen these efforts to defend the Esquipulas II agreements. We must strike hard at those sectors that are trying to place obstacles on the path of this negotiation process that has begun.

Obviously, the main obstacle is Reagan, but in the case of Nicaragua, the main obstacle is the mercenary forces.

When we have reached that objective, we will be stripping away Reagan's pretext that what we have here is a domestic struggle, and his objective to interfere would be clearly exposed.

Therefore, we are not acting outside of the agreements; on the contrary, as long as Reagan continues to support and to proclaim war against Nicaragua, the only choice we have is to strengthen our defense plans.

[*Barricada*] Another aspect of the agreements is a simultaneous cease-fire. How could a cease-fire take place? What would it be like?

[Ortega] The cease-fire will take place when the mercenary forces that are active understand that they have lost the war, as they understand that there is an amnesty law they can take advantage of, that there is a political willingness on the part of the Nicaraguan Government, as has been expressed on several occasions and which has been ratified by the appointment of the National Reconciliation Commission.

We know that there are several groups that do not recognize the leaders who meet with Reagan, those leaders who are totally sold on Reagan's plans, and possibly there are other groups that are misinformed and manipulated by those leaders.

With the negotiation process recently underway, in which the country's main forces of opinion are urging peace through a political solution, it is possible that some of these groups understand the situation disengage themselves from these leaders who would manipulate them, and take the step of changing their attitude and reintegrating themselves into the country's mainstream, in accordance with the National Reconciliation Commission.

Thus, they would cease being the tools of shameless politicians, such as the Caleros and all those who have never even soiled their boots.

Under these conditions, different cease-fire situations may arise that would allow these groups to rectify their ways in accordance with the agreements signed by the five presidents and within the spirit of reconciliation. They would thus contribute to peace by distancing themselves from U.S. policy and breaking with the shameless politicians who allegedly represent them now.

We already have had experiences such as the one in Zelaya, where it was possible to reach a cease-fire when we established communication with some groups who separated themselves from the belligerent, anti-Nicaraguan U.S. policies.

These groups realized they had been acting against Nicaragua, connections were made, communication was established, and this allowed the groups to change their attitude and to incorporate themselves into the country's mainstream, either as civilians or even as soldiers. Some of them have kept their weapons.

The main thing is that all these groups, who have already lost the war, should act in an intelligent manner and open their eyes to the present situation, sever their anti-Nicaraguan links, and enter Nicaraguan life in a dignified manner. To do so would in no way signify a defeat, because a defeat would be to continue letting themselves be annihilated in this process that we are bound to continue as long as these groups do not change their attitude.

[*Barricada*] General Ortega, are there any signs in this regard? Is there any type of contact, of communication with contra groups in Regions I, V and VI?

[Ortega] We trust that the more enlightened units will realize that this desire for peace is crucial for the entire nation. There are symptoms that indicate that some groups do not accept the leaders who met with Reagan.

Some of them have already shown interest in this process, especially since the National Reconciliation Commission was formed. The most practical thing for them to do is to have confidence and to enter the path of victory, which is also that of peace.

To continue being pawns of those shameless Caleros, of Robelo, and of such people would be to continue on the road to defeat. To enter the cease-fire and amnesty process is to enter the path of victory.

[*Barricada*] For the contras to enter that road to victory that you mention, the EPS will have to take special measures, definite steps; how will that work?

[Ortega] You know that the country's defense is something integral, where the military plays the most significant role; but there are diplomatic and political factors, and efforts and sacrifice in production and social areas.

A national defense plan requires the integration of all those factors. Our Army, therefore, cannot act as an institution separate from the other spheres of the revolution.

From a general point of view the campaign we have designed is divided into winter and summer. Of course, the winter campaign has already taken several steps regarding the agreements signed by the five presidents, as evident in the government's immediate response in complying with the agreements.

In this regard, there are several very significant aspects that have led to specific meetings with the chiefs of the Army High Command, with military regions, and with

the interior minister to coordinate the military operations we have been carrying out, with all the concrete political elements that arise from the new important situation.

[*Barricada*] Can you mention one of the specific mechanisms implemented by the Army?

[Ortega] We are working on this. The important thing is the mechanisms the EPS has implemented through the brigade and ground forces, such as the Social Forces that take part in our campaign plans.

These units, together with the MINT [Interior Ministry] organizations are strengthening the mechanisms that will ensure respect for the human rights of all those taking advantage of the peace plan, as granted by the amnesty law.

This is very important because if, at any time, because of inexperience or for specific reasons, we sometimes did not have a clear view of the government's position, this will not occur again.

[*Barricada*] Will the propeace commissions created in the Atlantic Coast be reproduced here, according to the particular conditions of other regions?

[Ortega] Of course, but without any extrapolation. We are studying the experiences obtained in the Atlantic Coast, we will try to adopt the most positive points, and we will implement them, according to the particular conditions in Regions I, V, and VI. We have some experience in this matter, and we will put this experience and other measures under study into practice.

To have a climate of confidence, to feel secure in the knowledge that these are serious steps taken by the Nicaraguan Government is very important. We want all sectors in the country to take part in this search for peace; we also want them to make specific contributions to this effort to reintegrate those citizens who joined the anti-Nicaraguan groups.

There will be more confidence when it is evident that these sectors are represented for example by the clergy, by the evangelical ministers, by the producers, and generally by the best people from each community, territory and region.

The EPS-MINT have taken special measures so that those wishing to return to the fatherland will be respected and will have no problems. The climate of confidence that people are perceiving now is increasing as a result of the negotiation, which is very important.

The Sandinists and all other national and patriotic forces should encourage this climate, particularly in the regions most affected by the war perpetrated by the stateless men who are still being manipulated by anti-Nicaraguan groups.

Reagan is using what on other occasions I have called the Strategy of Giving Up on the Verge of Intervention. Reagan wants the revolution to commit suicide and to deny its most fundamental values.

Therefore, any negotiation that the revolution may have in this current context begins with the assumption that the fundamental issues of the revolution are not at issue. The Sandinists are willing to take a series of steps, but without denying in any way the popular, patriotic, nationalist, Nicaraguan, revolutionary, and historic role assumed on 19 July 1979.

However, with the Strategy for Giving Up on the Verge of Intervention, the United States will try to turn the negotiation with Central America into the surrendering of Sandinism. Thus, if the Sandinists, as we have asserted, will not give up our fundamental principles, and if Reagan insists on our giving them up, then in the next few months, the position of the Central American countries—which do not ask Nicaragua to give up the revolution—and the positions of Reagan may be clearly in conflict.

There may be a moment when the only one against this process may be Reagan. We have said that although the struggle in the diplomatic and political arena is very important, it is not an antidote to military intervention.

As long as there is not greater security regarding the United States, the best countermeasure against the threat of intervention is the military preparedness of our people. Some analysts have said in a rote and simplistic manner that the external political conditions for military intervention do not exist, and that thus such preparation would be irrational.

Nevertheless, although an intervention may seem to us to be an irrational action now, it does not mean that the United States will not do it, because they have the power, the means, and the criminal, political resolution of Reagan, who deeply hates independence in Latin America, Nicaragua, and an independent Latin America in general, which is what Nicaragua represents at this historic moment.

Today is when Nicaraguan people should be more prepared, not only militarily but ideologically, in the streets, at the neighbor's house—ratifying our Sandinist principles, strengthening the people's conscience and the patriotism of the Nicaraguans, because, after all, we will be united by this factor.

Panama

U.S. Counselor Released Following Arrest

PA141623 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1548 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 14 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—David Miller, economic counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Panama has been released after being held for several hours under the orders of a municipal mayor's office, the U.S. Embassy reported today.

Miller participated in an antigovernment march yesterday. However, the reason for his action has not been clarified, nor has the U.S. Embassy issued a statement on it.

According to Luis Gomez, Legislative Assembly vice president and a leader of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), Miller took refuge in the San Miguelito municipal offices, located on the outskirts of the capital, when the shooting began in the area of the march.

The U.S. Embassy subsequently announced both Miller's arrest and his release. However, the charges against Miller are unknown.

One person was killed, two were wounded, and one vehicle was burned in the disturbances that took place on Sunday when the opposition demonstration was attacked with gunfire by unidentified individuals who, according to Christian Democratic Party Vice President Guillermo Cochez, were Army members dressed as civilians.

The opposition Civic Crusade had organized a march in a section of the Transisthmian Highway, on the outskirts of the capital, to commemorate the second anniversary of the as yet unsolved assassination of the guerrilla Hugo Spadafora.

Council Issues Communique

PA142018 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Sep 87

[14 September Communique issued by the San Miguelito District Municipal Council, read by Florencio Munoz, general secretary of the San Miguelito Municipal Council—recorded]

[Text] Once again, on the afternoon of Sunday, 13 September, the San Miguelito community was the object of an attack similar to the one it was subjected to on 30 August by the same sectors grouped in the so-called Civic Crusade. As we said in our 9 September communique, in which we anticipated the possibility of events that would prove painful to this community—which indeed took place yesterday—we made a call for calm reasoning to those who announced that they were planning to hold a demonstration at the entrance of San Miguelito District.

Because of the experience of Sunday, 30 August, which must be clarified as must yesterday's incidents, we urged everyone to be wise, to reconsider, and to not allow political passion and the desire to achieve power to blur the thoughts and conduct of those who insisted on carrying out the demonstration in question. Unfortunately, this council's call was not heeded by either Mr Ricardo Arias Calderon or by Mr Willy Cochez, leaders of the Christian Democratic Party, and once again another Panamanian family is stricken with mourning and grief.

Just as on 30 August, once again the presence of high-ranking U.S. Embassy officials was detected during the violent activities, as in the case of Mr David Miller, economic adviser at the U.S.Embassy, who was participating in the painful events that took place yesterday.

This Municipal Council also reports the rude and haughty presence of U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, who approached a municipality official, thus violating the most basic rules of courtesy and respect.

The members of this council and militia demand that the foreign minister formally protest over the manner in which members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Embassy have insistently and actively participated in the two violent incidents in this district. The members of this council also attest to the maturity and awareness of the people of San Miguelito, who, despite their social problems, have been able to establish that it is not the factions whose power is based upon their economic resources and the support the U.S. Government gives them, who can solve their problems.

In this regard, we insist that the national government adopt the necessary, popular corrective measures that will benefit the poor sectors of our population. As we said in our 9 September communique, this council and militia will demand that the proper authorities implement the strongest sanctions to prevent the instigators of yesterday's violent actions—those who have created unrest in this community—from going unpunished.

[Signed] America de Johnson, president of the San Miguelito Municipal Council; Frank Quintero, councilman; Eustacio Ford, municipal treasurer; Juan B. Quintero, municipal engineer; Jorge Rene Ayala, municipal auditor; Enrique de Leon, vice president of the municipal council; Nicolas Barrios, councilman; Luis Carlos Cabeza, consulting attorney; Pablo Bares, notary; Florencio Munoz, general secretary of the municipal council.

U.S. Ambassador Scored

PA142040 Paris AFP in Spanish 1954 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Excerpt] San Jose [as received], 14 Sep (AFP)—Panamanian authorities today said that U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis "violated diplomatic procedures" by demanding the release of the U.S. economic counselor who was arrested during an opposition demonstration yesterday.

Florencio Munoz, secretary of the municipal council of Panama City [as received; Panama City Domestic Service identifies Munoz as secretary of the San Miguelito municipal council], said today that Davis last night "burst into" the city government headquarters demanding the release of David Miller who was arrested during the disturbances that followed a Civic Crusade march yesterday.

Munoz explained that Davis first made a telephone call to the municipal office but since he was unable to persuade the authorites, he sent three of his aides, including Consul Donald Lawtz [name as received].

Nevertheless, they failed in their efforts so Davis went in person where he had a "violent exchange of words" with Munoz who, according to a report, he described as "incompetent."

In view of this, the councilman decided to issue a report and send it to the Foreign Ministry to report the events that accuse Miller of directing the opposition members yesterday to "provoke" clashes with government supporters in San Miguelito. [passage omitted]

Defense Forces Blamed

PA142317 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2148 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 14 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The opposition Civic Crusade holds the Panama Defense Forces responsible for the death of one of the Crusade's followers who participated in an antigovernment demonstration in the capital's outskirts Sunday that was attacked by armed people.

At a news conference, Crusade sources asserted that the attack resulted in seven injuries, one of them critical, but the injured did not go to hospitals or clinics because they were afraid that police would detain them.

According to spokesman Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, the Crusade identified a lieutenant, a sergeant, a corporal, and 15 other people, all of them Defense Forces members, who participated in the attack.

Crusade sources said they also identified officials from San Miguelito, a populous neighborhood located 8 km northwest of the capital where the events took place. The sources added they also identified hoodlums, many of whom wore masks.

The events Sunday occurred at about 1400 (1900 GMT) when the demonstrators approached the intersection of two important highways passing through the center of San Miguelito.

According to witnesses, Carlos Efrain Guzman, 49, a worker and father who participated in the demonstration, was shot in the head and killed by evidently drunken youths.

The Civic Crusade reported that other crusade members were attacked in their homes by armed people early that night. They complained that the authorities failed to show up to assist them although they were called.

De la Lastra also said the Crusade recorded Defense Forces' radio transmissions that Sunday instructing all policemen to withdraw from the area where the demonstration was to end, at the same spot where the attack took place.

The policemen's presence had been obvious shortly before the demonstrators arrived at this particular place. Later, however, the policemen withdrew and stayed away during the attack, the Crusade reported.

The Crusade said they had complied with all the legal requirements for the march and they had even informed the area's military chief, Major Armando Gondola, of their intentions.

De la Lastra said the government is isolated and that it "is unable to govern." He termed both president Eric Delvalle's trip to the United States Sunday and Defense Forces Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega's visit to Mexico "irresponsible" in light of the crisis that the country has been suffering the past 3 months.

In addition, De la Lastra denied that David Miller, the U.S. Embassy commercial adviser [title as received] who was detained by the police during the events, was designated by the Crusade as an observer of the march.

Miller was detained and held incommunicado for 8 hours. Because of this, the U.S. Government today announced it will file a formal protest with the Panamanian Administration.

The only observers were members of Panama's Human Rights Organization and the Catholic Church's hierarchy, who were invited by the Civic Crusade after similar incidents occurred in this very same area on 30 August, when Armando Moran, 25, was shot and killed.

Referring to the two victims the opposition leader said: "We are getting tired of this situation."

Opposition Blamed

PA141956 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Sep 87 p 14

[Unattributed article: "Oligarchs Tried to Push Gasoline Truck into the People Yesterday"]

[Text] A fuel tank truck parked on a hill parallel to the San Miguelito overpass, was the objective of groups of oligarchs and Christian Democratic Party [PDC] terrorists and the Civic Crusade. They wanted to set it on fire and push it into a group of youths who were enjoying themselves in the parking lot of the San Miguelito supermarket.

After making several attempts, breaking the windows in an effort to get into the truck to put it in neutral gear and roll it toward the innocent youths who were enjoying themselves, the attempts failed because another group forced the terrorists to retreat fall back to Ricardo J. Alfaro highway, thus preventing such a dreadful attack.

It is astonishing to see how quickly the groups of oligarchs led by the PDC get ready to fight and organize actions to disrupt public order.

Yesterday's disturbances were organized by the opposition oligarchs who are desperately trying to radicalize the sociopolitical situation and to subject Panama to the wave of political and armed violence that is affecting some Central American countries.

PRD Communique Criticizes U.S. Resolution

PA141946 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Sep 87 p 3

[Communique issued by Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, on U.S. Senate resolution; date,place not given]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party strongly and once again rejects the U.S. Senate attempts to interfere in Panama's internal affairs.

The resolution presented by a group of senators clearly demonstrates that the purpose behind the destabilization policy against Panama is to contribute to the U.S. flouting of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and thus evade the obligation to evacuate U.S. civil and military posts in our territory by the end of the century.

Inspired by Torrijist ideals and recalling the statement he [late General Omar Torrijos] made before the Security Council that we would not add another star to the U.S. flag, we state our willingness to strongly defend the peoples' right to self-determination and the sovereignty of our fatherland.

We call on the country's influential sectors to unanimously reject with us this new escalation of imperialist interference.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Democratic Revolutionary Party President

Carlos Ozores T., secretary general

ARGENTINA

Labor Minister Meets With Alfonsin, Resigns

PY150115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2352 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (TELAM)—After meeting with President Raul Alfonsin, Labor Minister Carlos Alderete today stated that he has submitted his irrevocable resignation, the text of which he will announce tomorrow during a press conference.

Alderete, who is also head of the Light and Power Union, said: I came to say goodbye to the president.

Government To Seek Waiver at IMF Meeting

PY142205 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2010 GMT 14 Sep 87

[All figures as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (NA) — It was learned here today that before the end of the month the Argentine Government will ask the IMF for a new "waiver" [preceding word in English] because the country has been unable to attain the targets agreed upon for the July-August period. Such targets were a key factor for obtaining a disbursement of $310 million in October, which is part of the standby [preceding word in English] loan agreed upon for this year.

The request will be submitted by the Argentine economic team during the annual IMF meeting which will begin on 28 September in Washington, when Minister Sourrouille and his advisers will present the adjustment measures that will be announced in the next few days.

On 21 September, private banks are due to disburse $1.5 billion in new money that the creditors promised to provide this year. *Tendencias Economicas,* a specialized magazine, has said that "a delay is likely, because foreign sources will need confirmation that there will be no changes in the tone of the negotiations."

The $210 million is one of 5 equal disbursements which the balance of the IMF standby loan was divided into in July 1987, when the IMF granted a waiver to Argentina because it failed to attain the pre-established targets for the 1st quarter, and because it was known for sure that the country would not meet the targets of the 2d quarter, either.

During these negotiations, the two parties agreed to set bimonthly, instead of quarterly targets. The disbursements of the $1.42-billion IMF contingency loan, of which Argentina has already received $370 million, have been rescheduled.

Caridi Vindicates Army's Role in 'Dirty War'

PY132140 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Army Chief-of-Staff General Jose Caridi yesterday vindicated the Army's role in the dirty war against left-wing subversion and said the force awaited a definite recovery of the South Atlantic Malvinas Islands currently held by Britain.

In a message read at ceremonies marking Infantry Day in Campo de Mayo, Caridi said the anti-subversion campaign had produced new heroes in the force and that the Army had always carried out a silent and harmonious task of materially and spiritually integrating Argentina.

Retired General Jose Maria Diaz, chairman of the Infantry Committee, speaking at the ceremonies said victory over subversion had been achieved at a cost of much courage, effort and pain and was thus "an unrenouncible part of the glories of the fatherland."

Diaz said history would issue a "dispassionate verdict which will include all the heroism displayed by those who took part in this war waged at the service of the high interest of the nation."

He said terrorism had pursued a task seeking to install a totalitarian, dehumanizing and anti-Christian regime which would uproot the legitimate rights of the population.

While he was speaking some 60 people called by nationalist groups gathered in front of the General Lemos combat support school to pay homage to cashiered Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, the leader of the Easter Week uprising, who was imprisoned there.

The demonstrators in a caravan of some 30 cars sounded their horns rhythmically as they passed the Infantry School where the ceremonies were being held.

At the General Lemos school they were not allowed in and crowded around the gate chanting slogans in support of Rico.

Among the demonstrators was Major Ernesto Barreiro, whose refusal to appear before a court in Cordoba to answer charges of human rights violations during the military regime sparked the Easter Week uprising.

Rico appeared briefly in one of the first floor windows of the school but his wife, Noemi Crocco de Rico, came down to the gates to thank the demonstrators for their support. She told newsmen that Rico did not intend to come out to thank them himself.

Police Free Chileans Detained at Protest Rally

PY130219 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2012 GMT 12 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Sep (NA)—Police today released the 31 [number as received] Chilean citizens arrested last night at a protest rally against Pinochet's government in front of the Chilean Embassy. The arrests were made following disturbances where 12 people were injured, among them 11 infantry guards.

Police sources reported that five Chilean citizens were set free at noon today on orders from Federal Judge Nextor Blondi. They had been held at police precinct 21.

The others were set free throughout the afternoon, according to the judge's orders. [passage omitted]

BRAZIL

Sarney Appoints Armed Forces Chief of Staff

PY150203 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] The EMFA [Armed Forces General Staff] has a new chief. President Jose Sarney today appointed Brigadier General Paulo Roberto Coutinho Camarinha as EMFA chief. Brig Gen Coutinho Camarinha is replacing General Paulo Campos Paiva, who is departing the post of EMFA chief after completing his active-duty service.

Report on Visit of Suriname's Bouterse

Arms Sale Contract Signed

PY142224 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Sep 87 p 4

[Text] Brazil yesterday signed a contract to provide a large number of weapons to Suriname. The contract provides for the provision of rations, canteens, uniforms, light tanks, and Tucano planes, which will be used against the guerrillas who are trying to oust the Surinamese Government. The deal was closed yesterday morning, during a 2 hour and 25 minute meeting that Surinamese Chief of State Colonel Desire Bouterse held with President Jose Sarney and military ministers to discuss payment for the materiel. During the meeting, Bouterse told Brazilian officials about the difficulties that his country has had in re-equipping its Armed Forces, due to the international boycott imposed by the United States and the Netherlands. Sarney listened to Bouterse's explanations but made no comment.

The Surinamese chief of state visited Brazil at the invitation of General Rubem Bayma Denys, military household chief and General Paulo Campos Paiva, Armed Forces chief of staff. The two Brazilian officers evaluated the Surinamese political situation, and concluded that Suriname and Brazil must increase their political ties because they share a common border. This assessment was included in a secret document submitted to Sarney, who agreed to meet with Bouterse.

Suriname will buy several types of military equipment. First, it will purchase canteens, rations, and uniforms. Later, it will buy Urutu and Cascavel Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] light tanks (the Surinamese troops now operate 11 Urutu's and 6 Cascavel's), and spares. The deal also includes Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] T-27 Tucano training warplanes.

In addition to buying weapons, the Surinamese are interested in training their soldiers. Surinamese officers have been trained since 1984 at the Agulhas Negras Military Academy (Aman), which is in Resende (Rio de Janeiro), Military cooperation will now increase and include the sending of Brazilian officers to Suriname to train the Surinamese Army.

Col Bouterse arrived at Planalto Palace at around 1130. He met with President Sarney; Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves; Paulo Campos Paiva, EMFA [Armed Forces Staff] Chief; Rubem Bayma Denys, Military Household Chief; Aeronautics Minister Otavio Moreira Lima; and Ivan de Souza Mendes, SNI [National Intelligence Service] Chief.

Col Bouterse returned to his country at about 1730.

Itamaraty Terms Visit 'Political'

PY142316 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Sep 87 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia—The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has reported that Surinamese Chief of State Colonel Desire Bouterse's visit to Brazil was essentially political. During a meeting with President Jose Sarney, which lasted over 2 hours, Bouterse spoke about the political transition process in his country, and delivered a Portuguese translation of the new Surinamese Constitution, which will be subject to a referendum on 30 September. To show that the democratic process in his country is moving forward, Col Bouterse invited the Brazilian Government to send observers to the general elections scheduled for 25 November 1987 in Suriname.

Itamaraty said the opening of new lines of credit to Suriname was hardly mentioned by the two chiefs of state. The matter, however, was analyzed on a technical level by officials of the central banks of the two countries. Approximately 3 weeks ago, a Surinamese mission came to Brazil to formalize the purchase of Brazilian medicines and food.

Itamaraty Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima said the Brazilian position, which was outlined yesterday, is that Suriname will get new credits only after negotiating a $4-million overdue debt. He added that the sale of weapons to Suriname was not discussed, either during Col Bouterse's meetings at the Planalto Palace or at the luncheon hosted for him by Itamaraty. [passage omitted]

After holding a meeting at the Planalto Palace, Col Bouterse and his 7-member entourage had lunch at Itamaraty and, at 1700, they boarded a Surinamese Air Force plane for Paramaribo. They did not hold a press conference.

Arms Sales Report Denied

PY142244 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Sep p 2

[Text] Speaking in Brasilia, Itamaraty Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima said yesterday that during his 1-day visit to Brazil last Friday, Surinamese Chief of State Colonel Desire Bouterse "by no means discussed the provision of weapons or military equipment." Surinamese Ambassador H. Marendorp also denied that the matter was discussed or that Bouterse came to Brazil at the invitation of the National Intelligence Service because, he said, "that would have been unacceptable." Military sources added that Brazil and several Latin American countries have reached agreements on the training of military officers.

This is the third denial of reports concerning the military industry and the defense area in just 5 days.

On Wednesday, Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and the Aeronautics Ministry denied reports published by the newspaper *Folha de Sao Paulo* on Tuesday. The newspaper reported the sale of 150 Tucano military training planes to the French Air Force. Embraer spokesman Antonio Augusto de Oliveira said Embraer would like to be awarded the contract, adding that the international call for bids by France's Armee de L'Air "has not even been formally opened yet."

Aeronautics Minister Otavio Moreira Lima stressed the denial with another detail: The amount of money involved in the deal—$150 million (some 7.4 billion cruzados]—"would mean a $60-million (2.9 billion cruzados) loss with respect to the price of the 150 warplanes."

On the same day, in Sao Jose dos Campos, Avibras Aerospacial denied that it closed a $500-million sale to Saudi Arabia. This company, which has maintained a strict policy of secrecy on its military equipment sales, said through its spokesman that "there has been no such sale."

CNEN Not To Reveal Uranium Technology

PY111753 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Sep p A-9

[From the Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre offices and correspondent in Sorocaba]

[Text] National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN) President Rex Nazareth Alves, 49, said yesterday during a press conference in the Rio de Janeiro War College (ESG) that he will not reveal the technology by which Brazil has been able to enrich uranium at the meeting of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Authority) which will be held from 14 to 28 September in Vienna. According to CNEN press adviseor Jose Reis, this decision may cause the IAEA board of governors to hinder any Brazilian request for technological cooperation.

Rex Nazareth, who will depart for Vienna on 12 September, said that "dimensioning [dimensionamiento] is an important technological procedure" and foreign experts could discover what kind of machine the CNEN uses. This is why he said he will not reveal details of the uranium enrichment centrifuge machines that will be installed in the Ipero enrichment unit, near Sorocaba (90 km west of Sao Paulo). Nazareth guarantees, however, that the machines are manufactured using 100 percent national "technology, materials, and labor."

Nazareth said that "if all technology were revealed openly, we would reveal ours." Developed countries conceal their technology "and pressure developing countries to reveal the technology that they master by their own effort without the aid of third parties," Nazareth said.

Upon returning from Austria in the beginning of October, Rex Nazareth will begin making contacts with Nuclebras to reorganize the objectives of the two organizations since they are researching uranium enrichment using two different methods. While the CNEN is using the ultracentrifugal method, Nuclebras is using the jet-nozzle method, which has not proven to be efficient anywhere in the world. Nuclebras has managed to enrich uranium by 0.85 percent in its laboratories, while the CNEN is enriching uranium by 1.2 percent and will be able to do so by 3.2 percent by the end of the year, according to Rex Nazareth. He said that $10 million will have to be invested in order to reach this percentage, and 20 percent of the enriched uranium necessary for fueling Angra I will not be ready for 4 years.

Nazareth believes that the importance of mastering the uranium enrichment cycle lies in the fact that the country is the fifth world producer of uranium, and it will not have "to sell a raw material" to buy an enriched product.